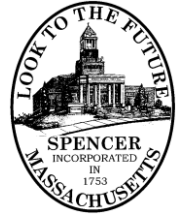


Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen



Date: Monday, May 14, 2012
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Mr. Berthiaume, Mr. Pepe, Mr. Stevens, Mr. Woodbury, Mr. Fritze, Town Administrator Gaudette, and Administrative Assistant Torti

At 6:00 p.m. Chairman Berthiaume called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

Reorganization: Mr. Berthiaume asked the Board to make nominations for Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk as has been the tradition of the Board following the Annual Election

A motion to designate Mr. Pepe as Chair (Fritze/Woodbury) passed 5/0.

A motion to designate Mr. Woodbury as Vice Chair (Fritze/Pepe) passed 5/0.

A motion to designate Mr. Stevens as Clerk (Berthiaume/Fritze) passed 5/0.

The members then each took their designated chair and continued with Mr. Pepe as chairing the remainder of the meeting. Mr. Pepe expressed his thanks to Mr. Berthiaume for his service and leadership and welcomed Mr. Stevens to the Board.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2012 Business Meeting, the Special Meeting and Executive Session of April 30, 2012, and the Special Meeting and Executive Session of May 3, 2012 (Woodbury/Stevens) passed 4/1 with Mr. Fritze voting no.

Citizen Input: Kurt Nordquist (8 Gale Drive) expressed his thanks to the Congregational Church for their street cleaning efforts.

Communications:

- a) Certificate of Appreciation: Officer Murray & Officer Allen. The Board, along with Chief Darrin presented a certificate to each officer in appreciation for their heroic actions in which a life was saved on April 30, 2012.

Old Business:

- a) Action Item: Release of Executive Session Minutes

A motion to release the executive session minutes as presented, with redactions (Woodbury/Fritze) passed 5/0.

New Business:

- a) School Building Committee Update: Dr. Reza Namin, Josh Cote, and members from the Architectural firm and Owners Project Manager gave a brief update regarding the status of the process to date. Community workshops will be held in East Brookfield and Spencer on May 23rd and May 24th. The architects will be reviewing the pros/cons of the existing building along with future education program needs. A report will be generated regarding the Education Program update and existing conditions update which will be presented to the Building Committee along with options. In June these options will be presented which may include an option for a complete rebuild or a renovation. In July, the preferred option will be presented to MSBA which will then vote on the plan in October. The group emphasized the importance of receiving community comments. Mr. Stevens asked how needs were determined and the architects indicated that they shared best practice examples, the need for a collaborative environment and flexibility. Mr. Fritze urged the architect to avoid designing a building or renovation that had a flat roof. Mr. Gaudette asked who the civil engineering sub was and if there were any geotechnical issues. Mr. Woodbury noted that virtual classrooms and online teaching were on the increase. Mr. Fritze asked if there were plans to eliminate the 10,000 gallon oil tank and if plans for air conditioning were included. The architects responded that it was anticipated that there would be a conversion to gas.
- b) 6:30 PM Public Hearing for National Grid for Pole Location Petition. Mr. Pepe opened the public hearing at 6:45 p.m. Shelly MacAfee was present, representing NGrid. No abutters were present and there were no questions from the Board or the public.

A motion to close the public hearing at 6:47p.m. (Berthiaume/Stevens) passed 5/0.

A motion to approve plan#12425903 as presented (Berthiaume/Stevens) passed 5/0.

Mr. Gaudette noted that Trina Dembrowski, the Community Liaison representative for NGrid had reached out to Supt. Steve Tyler regarding the ongoing double pole issue.

- c) Action Item: Vote on application for One Day Liquor License for Mary, Queen of the Rosary Annual Bazaar scheduled for June 8th from 5 p.m. to 11p.m. and June 9th from noon to 10 p.m. Josh Cote was present on behalf of the church and noted that he had run the booth for the last four years without incident and that two police officers walk the premises. There were no questions from the Board or the Public.

A motion to approve two one day liquor licenses for the annual bazaar (Berthiaume/Woodbury) passed 4/0 with Mr. Fritze abstaining.

- d) Action Item: Vote on request to close Prospect Street on June 8th from 5 p.m. to 11p.m. and June 9th from noon to 10 p.m. Mr. Pepe noted that this was an annual request from the church.

A motion to approve the street closure (Woodbury/Berthiaume) passed 4/0 with Mr. Fritze abstaining.

- e) Action Item: Vote to send letter of support for 2012 Open Space Plan. Mr. Gaudette informed the Board that the plan was nearing completion and a letter of support from the Board to EOEa was required. The State needs to adopt the plan. The Sibley project was then briefly discussed. There were no questions related to the Open Space plan.

A motion to send a letter of support to EOEa (Fritze/Berthiaume) passed 5/0.

- f) Action Item: Vote borrowing structure for Sibley Farms purchase. Mr. Gaudette informed the Board that a closing was planned for the last week of May/first week of June. He presented several borrowing options for the Board to review each of which presumed a 4% interest rate. After discussion, the Board members agreed that the five year note was the best option. The Administrator agreed to report back to the Board on the progress at the May 30th meeting.

A motion to borrow using the five year plan (Berthiaume/Fritze) passed 5/0.

Town Administrator's Report:

- a) Town Meeting Follow-up. Mr. Gaudette noted that the meeting went smoothly and noted the narrow passage of the aggregate electric rate article. Mr. Stevens asked if hearings and further discussion would be possible. Mr. Gaudette stated that he would invite Mr. Elstein to an upcoming Board meeting.
- b) Bid Update
 - i. Library Renovations. Mr. Gaudette noted that the kick off meeting for construction was scheduled for the next week.
 - ii. Pleasant Street/Lincoln Street Water and Streets Project. Mr. Gaudette informed the Board that the bids for the project were expected the following week.
 - iii. Fire Station Annex Building. Mr. Gaudette asked the Board to authorize him to move forward with this project as it needs to be rebid. The Board agreed to go forward with this project.

Board Liaison Reports: none. Mr. Pepe noted that liaison reassignments would be handed out by the Chair at the next Business Meeting.

Citizen Input: Carl Kwaitkowski (115 Meadow Road) Commented on the operating deficit at the Transfer Station, noting that an increase in fees would only drive away users. He next asked if the high school was accredited and Mr. Berthiaume responded that accreditation was received the previous week. Mr. Kwaitkowski asked the Board about the inclusion of children with learning disabilities in regular classrooms and the Board referred him to the Office of the Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Fritze noted that Supt. Tyler had done a survey for the Transfer Station and Mr. Gaudette noted that the Town could do better with providing for the removal of recyclables, noting that a site visit to Blackstone had taken place recently. Once the survey data has been processed, DEP has granted 80 hours of assistance to help evaluate the information. Mr. Gaudette further noted that an update would be given at an upcoming workshop, followed by a public hearing based on the recommendations received from DEP.

Board Member and Staff Comments: Mr. Berthiaume thanked the American Legion for the event they held at the Town Hall on May 12th. Mr. Stevens thanked the voters of Spencer for their confidence and for voting him into the position. Mr. Pepe thanked Mr. Berthiaume for his efforts in the Town Hall painting project. Mr. Pepe

also noted that the Financial Management Planning Committee is asking residents to complete a survey to help prioritize future spending on large capital projects. Residents can respond to the survey either on-line or by picking one up at the Town Hall.

A motion to adjourn (Berthiaume/Woodbury) passed 5/0. The meeting concluded at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura J. Torti
Administrative Assistant

_____ Chairman
_____ Vice Chairman
_____ Clerk
_____ Member
_____ Member
_____ Date